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August 12, 1966

Dr. E. M. Lederberg Research Geneticist Department of Genetics Stanford University School of Medicine 300 Pasteur Drive Palo Alto, California

Dear Esther:

Your letter of July 25th arrived just at the time I too was about to write to you requesting B. subtilis stocks. Could you send me SB-19 and 168 ind as used in the transformation experiment?

Regarding your question about a stock center to relieve the pressure of supplying stocks, I see no reason why you could not apply for a grant from NSF or NIH for this activity. Ed Adelberg has the E. coli K-12 center, and Post College still hopes to maintain the Demerec Salmonella center, I would suggest that B. subtilis stocks should be readily available somewhere, and Stanford is a logical choice. Running the Neurospora Stock Center I should warn you that "all is not gold that glitters." You would need to make available a stock list - perhaps via M.G.B. - and immediately business would pick up. The role of GSA - Committee on Maintenance of Genetic Stocks is to encourage stock centers and to evaluate proposals submitted to the granting agencies. Sol Goodgal is chairman of the Sub-Committee on Bacteria and Phages (see July 1966 #1, part 2, pages S'13-S14). I am sending your letter to him for his consideration. The proposal to Kay Wilson at NIH or to Herman Lewis at NSF need not be lengthy, merely some statement of the magnitude of cultures to be maintained, the mechanism of publicizing stock lists, and some idea of the number of stocks you already send out yearly, plus a realistic budget. With the increasing and widespread use of subtilis in transformation experiments I would think such an activity a real service to Microbial Genetics.

Sincerely and thanks for the stocks,

R. W. Barratt, Chairman

CMGS-GSA